

Docket No.: 210263US28/mca

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Tomotoshi SATO

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/922,837

GROUP: 2452

FILED: August 7, 2001

EXAMINER: TRUONG, LAN DAI T.

FOR: PERIPHERAL DEVICE WITH A CENTRALIZED MANAGEMENT SERVER,  
AND SYSTEM, COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT AND METHOD FOR  
MANAGING PERIPHERAL DEVICES CONNECTED TO A NETWORK

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

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SIR:

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowability of the claimed invention. In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance of May 13, 2009, Applicant respectfully submits the following comments.

In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, pages 11 and 12 of the Notice of Allowance state in part:

With respect to Claims 1, 11, 21 and 28. The prior arts of record, singly or in combination fails to teach the features of claim(s) limitations thereof. Specially, inter alia, it fails to teach an image printing device configured to be connected to a plurality of other image printing devices via a network, said image printing device comprising: a web server which can be a centralized management server for the network in an event that the image printing device is selected as a centralized management device; a management unit configured to manage the plurality of other image printing devices and said image printing device; a comparing unit configured to compare characteristics for each of the plurality of other image printing devices and said image printing device; a selection unit configured to select a managing image

printing device to manage the plurality of other image printing devices and said image printing device based on a result of a comparison between the characteristics for each of the plurality of other image printing devices and said image printing device, wherein said characteristics include one or more of central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load, wherein the managing image printing device is selected by said selection unit out of a group including the plurality of other image printing devices and said image printing device; a setting unit configured to set a default URL for said web server to correspond to the web server of the managing image printing device selected by the selection unit, wherein default URLs of web servers in the plurality of other image printing devices are also set to correspond to the web server of the managing image printing device; a checking unit configured to check if another image printing device is managing the plurality of other image printing devices and said image printing device; and a disabling unit configured to disable the management unit when the another image printing device is managing the plurality of other image printing devices and said image printing device.

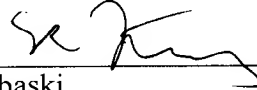
Claims 4, 6, 15, 17-18, 23-26, 31-35, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49 further limit the allowed claims, therefore they are also allowed.

Although the above comment appears to address Claim 1, it is respectfully noted that independent Claims 21 and 28 do not include this language. For example, Claims 21 and 28, being directed to a method of managing image printing devices and a computer program product, respectively, do not include a reference to the structure as may be implied and/or inferred by the examiner's statement. For example, these claims do not include a reference to "management unit", "comparing unit", "selection unit", "setting unit", "checking unit", or "disabling unit". Also, these claims do not include a reference to "wherein default URLs of web servers in the plurality of other image printing devices are also set to correspond to the web server of the managing image printing device". Claims 21 and 28 are patentable by virtue of the limitations recited therein rather than the structure of the apparatus. Accordingly,

it is respectfully submitted that the above-quoted statement does not apply to Claims 21 and 28 to the extent the language used in the statement differs from the language of the claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

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